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Research Trends in the Relationship between Water and Soil Pollution and Human Health

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Message from the Guest Editor

Soil and water are two fundamental elements for producing food for the large global population, and they also provide vital ecological functions for the various ecosystems that exist there. The elements are mainly polluted through natural causes such as volcanic eruptions, weathering of pollutant-containing rocks, liberation of the sequestered pollution due to soil erosion, and also through anthropogenic sources such as pollutant-containing industrial effluents, mining ores, burning of fossil fuel, application of contaminated fertilizers and pesticides, and so on. Food crops grown in contaminated soil, drinking water, and inhalation of polluted air are the main exposure pathways of pollutants to humans and cause diseases such as carcinogenesis. As a result, research trends should concentrate on the identification, extent, and management of potential pollution sources; determination of possible methods to reduce pollutant exposure to the food chain as well as the human body; purification of contaminated dietary sources; and the development of new technologies for disease treatment.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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